

Docket Number: 008312-0284084
Client Reference: T4A0A-01S0954



#5
4-21-04
PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re the Application of

KIKUCHI et al.

Group Art Unit: 2615

Application No.: 09/986,161

Examiner: Unknown

Filed: November 7, 2001

Confirmation No.: 4884

For: RECORDING RATE AUTOMATIC SETTING RECORDING DEVICE AND
RECORDING RATE AUTOMATIC SETTING RECORDING METHOD

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

RECEIVED

Commissioner for Patents
Mail Stop Patent Application
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

APR 15 2004

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each foreign reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner return an initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 to Applicants with the next Office communication to indicate that the references have been considered, per MPEP § 609.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date, but before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits or the Notice of Allowance.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3)(i), the undersigned provides the following statements of relevance for each non-English document listed on the attached PTO-1449.

1. JP 8-17137 describes how to utilize a recording medium efficiently and record high quality information.
2. JP 11-316703 describes how to provide a storage method which is suitable for additionally storing related data through the use of optical disks by plural users in a data retrieval system using the optical disks.

In addition, the undersigned supplies copies of English abstracts for each of these references. The abstracts provide additional details concerning the relevance of the references to the application. Also, the undersigned supplies a copy of the Japanese Office Action that caused the references to be cited. The Japanese Office Action provides still further details concerning the relevance of the references to the application.

I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1).

In addition, I hereby certify that each enclosed document listed on the herewith Form PTO-1449 was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign counter part application in the attached Japanese Communication (Office Action) issued March 2, 2004, i.e. not more than three months ago. An English language version of the foreign office action and English-language Abstracts are attached for the Examiner's information.

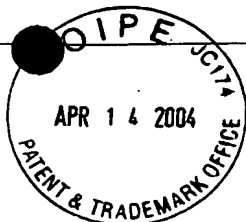
Respectfully submitted,

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Dkt. No.

M#

Client Ref.

0284084

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
BY APPLICANT**

Applicant: KIKUCHI et al.

Appln. No.: 09/986,161

Filing Date: November 7, 2001

Date: April 14, 2004

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of

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Examiner: Unassigned

Group Art Unit: 2615

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initials*	Document Number	Date MM/YYYY	Name (Family Name of First Inventor)	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date (if appropriate)
	AR					
	BR					
	CR					
	DR					
	ER					
	FR					
	GR					
	HR					
	IR					
	JR					
	KR					
	LR					
	MR					
	NR					

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document Number	Date MM/YYYY	Country	Inventor Name		English Abstract:		Translation Readily Available	
						Enclosed	No	Enclose	No
	OR 8-17137	01/1996	JAPAN	Hioki et al.		x			
	PR 11-316703	11/1999	JAPAN	So et al.		x			
	QR								
	RR								
	SR								
	TR								
	UR								
	VR								
	WR								
	XR								

OTHER (Including in this order Author, Title, Periodical Name, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

YR	Japanese Patent Office Action dated March 2, 2004.				
ZR					
AAR					
BBR					
CCR					
DDR					

Examiner

Date Considered:

*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.